

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

21 Simonston Blvd.
Thornhill, ON L3T 4R6
905-881-1534

Pastor

Rev. Anthony Iacobelli

Deacons: Michael Gennaro
James Shaughnessy

Celebration of The Eucharist

Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am
Thursday: 12:00 noon

Eucharistic Adoration (First Friday - following the 8:30 am Mass and closing with Solemn Benediction at 12:00 noon)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism

Second Sunday of the Month
By appointment only.

Sacrament of Marriage

By appointment only - Contact the pastor at least one year in advance.
An approved preparation course is mandatory.

Parish Schools

St. Michael Catholic Academy 905-889-4816

For more information on Catholic education in our community, or to reach your local school board trustee, contact the Toronto Catholic District School Board at 416-222-8282 or www.tcdsb.org or the York Catholic District School Board 905-713-1211 or www.ycdsb.ca

email: gspadmin@bellnet.ca

website: goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17



December 19th to December 23rd

Tues. 8:30 am – Teresa Sun ☩
Wed. 8:30 am – Clement Sun ☩
Thurs. 12:00 pm (Noon) – Audrey Sun ☩
Fri. 8:30 am – Flory Chin ☩
Sat. 4:30 pm – John Fung ☩

GAUDETE SUNDAY



On this Third Sunday of Advent, signified by the lighting of the rose candle, the Church *rejoices* in the Lord! Gaudete is the Latin word for “Rejoice.” Philippians 4:4-5 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand.”

Readings: Sunday, December 24th

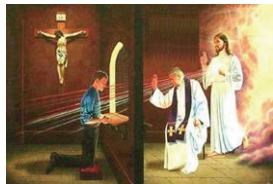


1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7-8, 14, 16
2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:38

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week’s readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today’s Gospel, is best understood by who he isn’t. He is not Elijah returned from the heavens, nor the Messiah. He has been anointed by the Spirit since the womb.

DAY OF CONFESSION:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th



**TIMES: 9am-11:30am
1pm-3pm
7pm-9pm**

Catholics must confess their sins at least once a year, as per the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) as this “...ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.” (CCC 2042)

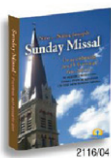
John prepares the way for the Lord. His baptism is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance. John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains, the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today’s First Reading. Jesus’ bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit.

On Tuesday, December 19th, a priest will be available to hear your confession from 9am-11:30am, 1pm-3pm, and 7pm-9pm. This sacrament is also available every Saturday before Mass. Visit www.archtoronto.org/confession to find confession times at various churches across Toronto.

John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing with Mother Mary in the Responsorial Psalm, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven. And as Paul exhorts in today’s Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body—that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.

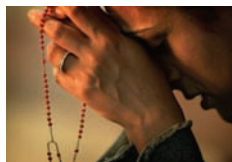
– Adapted from Scott Hahn

DISPOSING OF SUNDAY MISSALS:



The Word of God is to be disposed of properly since it is through God’s word that the world was created. It is recommended that 2017 Sunday missals and *Living with Christ* monthly missals be burned and the ashes buried, ideally in a sacred place.

THE ROSARY: This Advent, the Rosary is being prayed each Saturday before Mass at 4:10 pm. Praying the rosary brings many graces into our lives. All are welcome to participate.



ADVENT CHALLENGE:

We are asking our parishioners to complete one act of kindness each day during Advent.



4 HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: YOUR PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.") requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.

– *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2042*
www.vatican.va

4th Sunday of Advent - Holy Obligation
Saturday, December 23rd at 4:30pm
Sunday, December 24th at 9am and 11am

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
Holy Obligation

Eve: Sunday, December 24th at 7pm and 10pm
(Carolling begins at 9:30pm)
Day: Monday, December 25th at 9am and 11am

Holy Family - Holy Obligation
Saturday, December 30th at 4:30pm
Sunday, December 31st at 9am and 11am

New Year's Eve/New Year's Day
Holy Obligation
Eve: Sunday, December 31st at 4:30pm
Day: Monday, January 1st at 9am and 11am

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN:

Tuesday, December 26th (Boxing Day)

Please take note, Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 26th at 8:30am.

GIFT CARDS: THANK YOU!



A very warm thank you to all who donated gift cards to the less privileged. You have helped make Christmas one everyone can celebrate!



ENVELOPES ARE IN THE FOYER: Please pick up your box of envelopes. All envelope numbers over 600 have been reassigned.

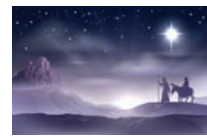


CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR AT MADONNA HOUSE:

Looking for a break this Christmas or year round? Madonna House in Combermere invites guests for a minimum of a one week work-stay.

Founded by Catherine Doherty, it is a place where priests, men, and women, live, work, and pray side by side. Meals and accommodation are free. Visit this sacred place of spiritual healing and experience joy this Christmas! For more information, please call 1-613-756-3713 or visit www.madonnahouse.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & CONCERT:



Congratulations to all the participants of the 1st annual Christmas Pageant and Concert! It was a beautiful event that helped us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. A special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped out. Thank you to Eugenie and Kiana Landry for organizing and directing the pageant.

BAKE SALE THANK YOU!



The Ladies of the CWL would like to express their sincere thanks to the parishioners who so generously supported the Christmas bake sale and bazaar.

RAFFLE WINNERS Winning Ticket #326413-Glass dish
Please visit the office to pick up your prize.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:



PROTEIN FOR THE POOR Accepting Financial Donations

During Advent, the Knights of Columbus will be accepting financial donations for their annual "PROTEIN FOR THE POOR." Donations will go to the Good Shepherd Centre which provides food, clothing, and shelter for many of Toronto's homeless men. Please help alleviate their suffering.

FROZEN CASSEROLES: THIS WEEKEND



Please bring your frozen casseroles this weekend December 16th and 17th.

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and he who abides in love
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